

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080548

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED MARCH 27, 1976
SENT NATO INFO GENEVA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074805

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, ICRC, PARM

SUBJECT: LAWS OF WAR -- CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

REF: USNATO 1393

1. WE HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH SOME ASPECTS OF FRG DRAFT
MANDATE FOR FURTHER STUDY BY NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC)
ON SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE PROHIBITIONS OR
RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.
HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT FRG DRAFT WITH CHANGES
ALONG LINES INDICATED BELOW.

2. IF MC STUDY IS TO MAKE USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO ALLIANCE
CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS, IT
SHOULD DEAL PRIMARILY WITH THOSE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE
REALISTIC CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTABLE TO ALLIANCE, AND NOT
SPEND SIGNIFICANT TIME AND EFFORT ON THE MANY UNREALISTIC
PROPOSALS ADVANCED AT LUGANO WHICH ARE CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE
TO MANY ALLIANCE MEMBERS. THEREFORE, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO
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REQUEST THAT THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON A STUDY OF NETHERLANDS

PROPOSALS ON INCENDIARIES AND UK-NETHERLANDS-FRENCH
PROPOSAL ON MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS REFERRED TO IN PARA 5 OF
DRAFTMANDATE, BUT MC SHOULD NOT EXPEND SIGNIFICANT EFFORT
ON 21-NATION PROPOSAL CITED IN PARA 5 OR ALL OTHER BANS

AND RESTRICTIONS DISCUSSED AT LUGANO AS STATED IN PARA 1

3. PROPOSED COMPLETION DATE OF AUGUST 31 SEEMS OVERLY
OPTIMISTIC TO USAND IS NOT REQUIRED IN ANY EVENT. AD
HOC COMMITTEE OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE WILL CONDSIDER
WEAPONS
ISSUES FURTHER IN MAY AND POSSIBLY JUNE, AND
RESULTS OF THIS SESSION WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT IN MC STUDY. IF MC IS TO DO THOROUGH AND PROFES-
SIONAL JOB, WE BELIEVE COMPLETION DATE SHOULD BE EXTENDED
TO NOVEMBER OR EVEN DECEMBER. THIS WILL STILL ALLOW
STUDY TO BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT PRIOR TO NEXT NEGO-
TIATION ON WEAPONS, SINCE THIS WOULD PROBABLY NOT TAKE
PLACE UNTIL SOMETIME IN 1977.

4. WE DOUBT VALIDITY OF UNREALISTIC ASSUMPTION STATED IN
PARA 2 THAT WEAPONS AFFECTED WOULD NOT BE REPLACED WITH
OTHER WEAPONS. MILITARY NEEDS WILL HAVE TO BE MET BY
SOME WEAPONS. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST COMBINING PARAS 2 AND
3 TO CALL FOR EXAMINATION OF LIKELY ALTERNATIVE WEAPONS
AND IMPACT ON CAPABILITIES OF ARMED FORCES, INCLUDING
SOME GENERAL ESTIMATE OF COSTS AND TIME REQUIREMENTS, OF
THESE ALTERNATIVES.

5. WE ARE ALSO UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT IS CONTEMPLATED BY
REFERENCE IN PARA 6 TO COOPERATION WITH DISARMAMENT
EXPERTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW SPECIALISTS. WE DO NOT
EXPECT THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR USG TO SEND SUCH
EXPERTS TO BRUSSELS TO ASSIST MC FOR PROLONGED PERIODS.
THEREFORE MC SHOULD ENSURE THAT ITS WORK IS COORDINATED
IN HOME CAPITALS.

6. WE SUGGEST YOU ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT CHANGES TO DRAFT
MANDATE ALONG PRECEDING LINES WITH FRG REPS, WITH OBJECT
OF HAVING ACCEPTABLE TEXT, IF POSSIBLE, IN TIME FOR
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MEETING OF DISARMAMENT EXPERTS. PLEASE ADVISE.

7. FRG EMBASSY GAVE ACDA COPY OF DRAFT MANDATE AND
REQUESTED OUR COMMENTS. WE INTEND TO RESPOND ALONG ABOVE
LINES. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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